

can keep your doctor. If you like your insurance, you can keep your doctor.

It is not just about the cost. It is about improving outcomes and helping people live better and healthier.

Mr. WALKER. Madam Speaker, as I enter my fifth year serving in these hallowed Halls, I am still in awe of the sacred duty we have been given. We are truly the people's House. However, I believe that the people's House should give a voice to every single American, including the unborn.

This past Congress, we were able to pass, in the House, two major bills protecting life. The Born-Alive Protection Act and the Pain-Capable Child Protection Act both affirmed the humanity of the unborn and our firm belief that they are worthy of protection. Sadly, these bills were not taken up in the Senate, and with the new Democratic-led House, their future is uncertain.

But each January gives us hope. It is a critical time to talk about the importance of life and what it means to all Americans. Not only does the beginning of the year bring new goals and ambitions, but it contains important events that celebrate life, justice, and human potential.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., whose life we recently celebrated, knew this potential. He said that any person cannot succeed if he or she is willing to "sacrifice the future of his children for immediate personal comfort." He also professed the value and hope of every single human life.

We also witnessed tens of thousands of marchers just recently arriving from all across America to march and boldly speak for those who can't speak for themselves.

Last week, we saw what my friend Benjamin Watson says is a "sad and evil day." Throughout history, there are pivotal moments that sober us up to the point of engagement. Such a moment happened 1 week ago as we watched the New York State Assembly celebrate expanding the path for late-term abortions in their State.

Mr. Watson said this: "It is a sad and evil day when the murder of our most innocent and vulnerable is celebrated with such overwhelming exuberance."

This law allows for abortion up to birth, practically without limits. It authorizes the legal murder of a fully viable human baby. This is what was being celebrated. This is why the Freedom Tower was lit bright pink on a cold winter's night.

That celebration is now seared into our Nation's conscience, and many are now realizing, more than ever, that we should not, that we must not, that we cannot look the other way. Even our sleeping churches are beginning to awaken to this just and righteous cause.

New York already faces a cataclysm. In New York City, more than 500 abortions are performed for every 1,000 births. These numbers are more staggering for African American babies, more of whom are now aborted than actually born.

The Governor of New York has even suggested that those who are pro-life are not—and get this—welcome in his State.

I support federalism and the idea that New York can make its own laws for New York. My question is not a legal one, but a moral one. How long will our American society allow this injustice? Can we expect the new House Democratic majority to continue down this path? Will there be consequences?

As my friend Kay Cole James likes to say: "The right to life is the most fundamental of all civil rights."

To revive the American Dream, we must reclaim America's soul. That means standing with the majority of the American people who reject the Federal funding abortions; that means putting the life and health of women and babies ahead of the desires of abortion giants like Planned Parenthood.

But in many cases, we must also regain our credibility in valuing the birth at all stages of life. Do we care—tough question. Do we care, 20 weeks after the baby is born, as much as we value the baby 20 weeks before birth?

In closing, Mark Twain said this: The two most important days are when you are born and when you find out why. How many babies, how many children will never get to discover either?

Please continue to stand for those who have no voice. In the name that is everything just, never stop raising yours.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

PUT A BORDER SECURITY PLAN ON THE FLOOR

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2019, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. GAETZ) for 30 minutes.

Mr. GAETZ. Madam Speaker, here we are, 2½ weeks away from a potential government shutdown. It is not 5 yet, and I am on the floor of the House of Representatives of the United States Congress, and there is functionally nobody here. I choose to address the body from the podium, rather than the well, to illustrate this point.

Now, anywhere else in America, if you were facing some cataclysmic event like a shutdown or a shutoff or a business losing a major client, you would have the whole team here working, getting together, workshopping solutions, offering amendments, ripening proposals and actually doing the work that we are supposed to be doing for the country.

With this 2½ weeks to the shutdown, it is notable to me that Congress got into town last night and we are leaving tomorrow. It is like we have got the French workweek around here. And the Democrats are in control. They are driving, Madam Speaker.

So my call is to Speaker PELOSI:

If you have got a border security package, put it on the floor.

If you have got an idea on how to make sure that our country is safer, respecting the rule of law, creating a climate of rising wages for our workers, making sure that people in their neighborhoods are safe and not having to face the gangs and the cartels and the criminals and MS-13, let's see it.

Democrats often were right to criticize Republicans during the 115th Congress that we had constrained rules, limited debates. We had diminished opportunity for Members to offer amendments. But we don't even have a bill. It kind of makes me wonder why.

It may be the Democrats can come to no consensus on border security. I mean, heck, we have got a group of them who probably are from Rust Belt States, from the Midwest, where a lot of their constituents voted for President Trump and believe that we ought to have physical barriers, believe that we ought to be a nation of laws and borders—pretty rational stuff. And then you have got this other wing of the Democratic Party, Madam Speaker, that thinks that walls and borders are racist and immoral.

How is it that the country is expecting us to lead—you to lead, in the majority—if we aren't able to at least come to this floor and offer concrete solutions?

You know what we voted on these last couple of days? We have been voting on whether or not we are going to establish studies on the potential harms of cryptocurrency. Now, that may be a virtuous objective, but it seems less poignant and less timely than the impending shutdown we potentially have in 2½ weeks.

We took votes on whether or not the Department of Homeland Security should offer more mentorship and training to law enforcement on Tribal lands—also virtuous, but certainly not what we ought to be doing here.

Madam Speaker, each and every day, when we walk these Halls, we stand under the busts and statues and murals of some of the greatest Americans to have ever lived. There are times when I feel we are unworthy to cast our gaze upon them and upon their likeness because here we are, trusted to fulfill the promise of the country, and it is not even 5 yet on a workday, and I am the only one here and everybody is packing their bags getting ready to go home.

It is a travesty and it is a shame brought upon this House. I certainly hope in the coming weeks we can do better.

Madam Speaker, I thank your indulgence, and I yield back the balance of my time.

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE MODERNIZATION OF CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair announces the Speaker's appointment, pursuant to section 201(b) of House Resolution 6, 116th Congress, and the order of the House of January